

Officers' Quarters - Building A
Fort Laramie, Wyoming

HABS
WYO
8-FOLA,
3E-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Branch of Plans and Design, Region II
National Park Service
Omaha, Nebraska

OFFICERS' QUARTERS - BUILDING A
Fort Laramie, Wyoming

HABS
WYO
8-FOLA,
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CUSTODIAN

National Park Service.

DATE OF ERECTION

1870 (Approximate)

ARCHITECT

Engineer Dept., U. S. Army

PRESENT CONDITION

The building is rapidly deteriorating, with many broken windows, leaky roof, and much plaster off in second floor rooms. The lower floor rooms had been occupied until recently. The tenants, however, apparently gave the house little care or upkeep.

The building exists only partially in its original condition, having been altered several times. Included in the report is copy of an old photograph, secured from Meade Sandercock, showing the house as it existed in 1891. This was taken shortly after abandonment of the post by the Army. Mr. Sandercock's mother purchased the house at this time, living in it until 1916.

The changes noted in the house were discussed with Mr. Sandercock and he was able to recall the majority had been made at various times by his mother.

The changes noted were as follows:

1. Original siding - vertical boards and battens painted red. Present siding - horizontal siding painted white.
2. Windows originally provided with shutters, including second floor dormer windows. All shutters are now missing.
3. Porch on three sides of house originally; the section on the west is now missing.
4. Old porch railing missing.
5. Rear wing on west missing. This wing may be noted in photograph of the Fort, taken in 1902, copy of which is included under section, "General Views of Fort". Mr. Sandercock advised a porch existed between the east and west wings and some evidence was located on the present wing showing the depth of this porch. This information is included on the measured drawings of the house.

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6. House was formerly a double dwelling but has been converted to a single dwelling by removal of a center partition. Other changes include removal of old center stairway and addition of windows in the door openings to the west apartment.
7. New door added on the east elevation.
8. New doors added between upstairs bedrooms.

Meade Sandrock advised the horizontal siding, door on the east, and changes in the porch were made about 1916. He also advised the porch ceiling was added at this time, the porch previous to this time having rafter construction. He further recalled the porch was divided between the two apartments by a head high partition. This is missing. The lattice below the porch, showing in the old photograph, is also missing.

NUMBER OF STORIES

Two.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION

Foundations under the main part of the house and rear (east) wing are of stone. The porch rests on wood posts set on stone footings. A basement exists under the rear (east) wing, but has not been used for some time. The basement stairway is decayed and partially missing. Basement window sash and frames are gone. To the rear of the house, on the west side, is a storage cellar. This may have been the basement under the former west wing.

Construction of the house is wood frame. Exterior walls are filled with adobe brick.

Original siding was vertical (1" x 12") boards and battens, painted red. The rear (east) wing remains unchanged. However, on the main portion of the house the battens have been removed and the house resided with bevel siding, 4½" to weather, painted white. The paint, however, has practically weathered away.

The roof is of wood shingles, laid approximately 5 inches to the weather. The condition is extremely poor. Increasing deterioration of the interior may be expected unless the roof is repaired in the near future.

Windows are double hung, with divided sash, and are operated with spring catches. All windows formerly were fitted with hinged flat blinds and some hardware remains on a number of the windows. Many of the windows are broken.

The porch is in fair condition and needs little repair other than replacement of the roof.

Interior floors are flat grain 1" by 4" flooring and are in fair condition.

Interior walls are of smooth plaster applied over wood lath, and papered at present. According to information of Henry de Pertius, formerly a tenant in the house, they originally were unpapered. It was noted in other buildings that walls were smooth plaster, painted, and some evidence remains that paint was also used in this house.

The principal change in the interior of the house, made when the house was changed from a double to a single dwelling, has been removal of the interior dividing partition and center double stairway. The present stairway is poorly constructed and unsatisfactory.

Interior millwork is in fair condition, but shows unusual wear resulting from changing ownership and tenancy.

Wilfred G. Hill,
Associate Architect